



MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING OF 20TH NOVEMBER 2024

Present:

Management team: Mme Dauer, Mme Alliès, Mr Sidibe, Mr Barbosa

Diplomatic representative: Mr Lecas

Teaching staff representatives: Mr Massé, Mr Adoboe, Mr Cissé, Mr Jouanet

Student representatives: Maya Owusu-Ansah, Lena Njonjo. Apologies: Chrys Yeo (CVL vice-president)

Parents' representatives: Mr Aschkar, Mr Attah, Mrs Appah

Session secretary: Mr Barbosa

Deputy secretary: Mr Adoboe

Start of meeting: 4.10pm

Approval of previous minutes (June 2024): 1 abstention, minutes approved.

Composition of committees:

Some positions have not yet been filled for the following committees:

- School Council: technical and administrative staff have not been appointed, a reminder will be sent out.

- Disciplinary Board: Mr Attah to represent the parents

- Secondary School Council: Mr Attah to represent the parents, a reminder will be sent to find a 2nd parent to represent the parents on this council.

- CESC: technical and administrative staff have not been appointed, a reminder will be sent out

- Infrastructure Committee: one parent representative post remains to be filled, a reminder will be sent out.

The School Council unanimously approved these committees.

1. Educational structure 2025-26

- Assessment 2024-25

Presentation of student numbers at the start of the school year in September 2024

A large proportion of new enrolments in nursery and lower primary, but this proportion decreases in secondary, and in particular in lycée.

A significant number of pupils leave between CM2 and 6eme, and especially between 3eme and Seconde. Questions are being raised about our ability to retain our students, especially at lycée.

We must therefore continue to work on making the school more attractive.



3 questions from parents:

- Is it possible to analyse the origins of new arrivals? Answer: Yes, this work can be carried out as part of the work of the school's attractiveness committee.
- Do some students go back and forth between LFIA and the other school? Answer: They do, but these are isolated cases.
- Is LFIA's ability to retain its students a priority? Answer: Yes, this issue is integrated into the question of the school's attractiveness.
- Outlook and scenarios for 2025-26

Presentation of a summary table with a forecast structure

Reduction from 3 to 2 classes in 6ème and 5ème.

Desire to maintain 2 classes in Seconde: need to retain students from 3ème.

1 single class in Terminale.

This has consequences for the number of hours taught: a dialogue and discussion have been launched with teachers in the departments concerned.

2. The school's attractivity

- Presentation of the Attractiveness Committee

Participating teachers: Mrs Violleau, Mr Adoboe and Mr Agbenyeke

The committee has not yet met. Parents will be part of this committee to put forward their ideas and help make the school more attractive.

Students will also be asked for their suggestions.

- **Discussions, issues and ideas: how can we attract more students to LFI Accra, particularly in the collège and lycée?**

Mr Cissé (teacher) recalled the participation in the Accra Parents forum/exhibition, and stressed the need to improve the school's visibility.

Mr Lecas: the attractiveness of LFIA is important to the French Embassy, which supports and will continue to support initiatives in this area.

Mme Appah: Parents are the key people in strengthening the reputation and attractiveness of the school, given the right conditions.

Mr Lecas asked what the right conditions would be. Mrs Appah mentioned the feeling of belonging to the school, with a community united around federative event. Mr Aschkar points out that efforts need to be made in both directions, parents and school, in order to foster this togetherness and strengthen the sense of belonging.

Mrs Allies reminds us that we need to think about this change in the school's image without losing sight of our identity, that of a French school.



Maya (student) pointed out that the events promoted on the school's social networks do not always reflect the quality of what is offered in class, and some schools are more successful in this communication exercise.

Mr Attah raised the question of the objective of this attractiveness committee: to attract French speakers? Attract Ghanaians? Some introspective work seems necessary beforehand.

Mr Lecas points out that we all need to work together, and in particular we need to understand the expectations of Ghanaian parents.

3) School projects and trips

Primary and Secondary: 77 projects for 2024-25, with 17 between September and December 2024.

- 8 school trips proposed for 2025:

Geneva, Paris, Morocco, Togo, Cape Coast, Libreville, El Mina, London

- A major educational project (Physical Education)

Hosting of the ZAC (Central African Zone) games for secondary school classes with delegations from 4 countries (selection underway).

- Fab'lab project

Project to equip a technology room (3D printer, laser cutting, programming, coding, etc.)

4) Groups of need

- Initial assessment of the groups of need: setting up and running

Thanks to the teachers, smooth running and implementation.

Class council and report cards: overall assessment in consultation with the teachers

Questions from Mr Attah:

- What kind of communication about these need groups? Answer: Communication at the beginning of the year (back-to-school meetings), then communication from the teachers to the classes.

- Are there any changes to the Mathematics or French curriculum? Answer: No, it's the way we teach that changes.

Other matters

Questions from teaching staff:

Primary school teachers: would like to be informed as soon as possible of any changes in the teaching program and changes in the number of hours taught.

Response from Mrs Allies: the school's structure depends on the number of pupils enrolled, and this number is constantly changing until late in the year.

Mr Cissé points out that the teachers would like to be informed and, if possible, reassured about the hours taught. This applies in particular to English teachers at primary level.



Mrs Dauer and Mrs Allies explained the changes in the number of hours taught in English at primary level over the last 2 years (in particular to comply with certification criteria).

Mr Jouanet points out that the uncertainty is giving rise to teachers' concerns, and the representatives are voicing these concerns. Mrs Allies pointed out that the consultation process had been carried out in the context of the school's governing bodies, and that the decision had been made to maintain the jobs. For this reason, rather than terminating the contracts, it was decided to reorganise the services of the language teachers.

Questions from parents:

Question about water bottles/glasses and morning snack at the primary school: how was this decision made?

Mr Barbosa points out that decisions are always taken with the health of the pupils as a priority (sufficient quantity of water drunk during meals, healthy and balanced diet), and in accordance with current recommendations.

For Mr Attah, these are commendable initiatives, but parents often complain about the lack of communication on the subject.

Mr Aschkar raised the question of who can decide what is good for health and what is not, as food representations and traditions vary. Mr Lecas points out that the WHO recommendations provide an objective framework. The school is based on these recommendations and it is important to use elements of consensus (foodstuffs considered to be good for health, for example), rather than prohibitions.

Question on the uniform: can the collective debate be relaunched?

The answer is yes, and it needs to include the various stakeholders in the education community as a whole. If a survey is carried out, for example, it must first identify all the issues surrounding uniforms in schools.

Question about competition and the school's ambition for its students.

A lively exchange took place between the members of the School Council on the notions of competition and ambition for our students. Various points of view were presented on the supposed benefits of a competitive spirit, and opinions on the subject differed.

End of meeting 7pm

Secretary of the meeting

Rodrigue Barbosa

Principal

Catherine Dauer

